

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091884

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PILGRIM'S PROGRESS: VORSTER IN ISRAEL

EMBASSY CAPE TOWN REPORTS THAT VORSTER'S TRIP TO ISRAEL HAS RECEIVED AN ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT THE SAG BELIEVES CLOSER IDENTIFICATION WITH ISRAEL WILL PROVIDE BENEFITS FAR OUTWEIGHING ANY POSSIBLE NEGATIVE REACTION IN THE THIRD WORLD. ISRAEL'S MOTIVATION FOR THE INVITATION IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR TO THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, AND SEVERAL ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS ARE DRAWN:

--THE VISIT SEEMS TO CONFIRM THE CHARGE OF AN ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICAN ANTI-LIBERATION AXIS WHICH HAS GAINED CURRENCY IN THE THIRD WORLD IN RECENT YEARS.

--THE MILITANT ARAB STATES NOW HAVE NEW AMMUNITION FOR RENEWED EFFORTS TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM THE UN AND WILL MAINTAIN THAT THE TRIP CONFIRMS THE "ZIONISM IS RACISM" ARGUMENT.

--IF, AS A RESULT OF THE UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED,

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ISRAEL ATTEMPTS TO PROVIDE MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR TECH-

NOLOGY TO SOUTH AFRICA, QUESTIONS WILL BE RAISED ABOUT
POSSIBLE US INVOLVEMENT OR AT LEAST ABOUT OUR WILLING-
NESS TO STOP IT. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAPE TOWN 435, 4/16.)
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